

REMARKS

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-7 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flakne et al in view of Reid et al while allowing claims 8-14. In response to Applicants' prior arguments the Examiner states that Flakne et al teach generation of mask pixel data by a controller to define a mask, i.e., tag bits allow the channels to be prioritized or layered so that only the intensity of the one on top is displayed when two or more channels overlap, referencing column 6, lines 36-42 and column 15, line 49 to column 16, line 46. Applicants continue to traverse this nonobvious conclusion by the Examiner.

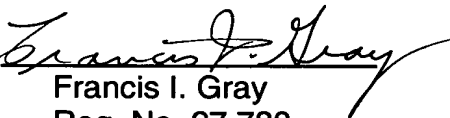
A "mask defines a pathway having minimum and maximum amplitude values, predetermined bit rate, and defined minimum slope on signal edges." (Page 1, lines 31-32 -- Fig. 4, elements 410, 420). The tag bits of Flakne et al service to prioritize which channel of data is to be shown when different channels overlap, not to define a pathway for a waveform signal. In other words the lower "layer" as determined by the tag bits is not seen on the display. A mask on the other hand does not hide the pixel data representing a waveform, but rather intensifies the pixel samples that violate the mask, i.e., both the mask and pixel samples are seen ("simultaneously displaying a representation of said mask and all of said waveforms") – one is not hidden by being overlaid by the other as taught by Flakne et al. Claim 1 further recites that the comparison circuit determines "if any acquired waveform sample . . . is to be written into a memory location currently storing a mask pixel, causing a mask violation." Flakne et al do not generate mask pixel data and do not compare for a mask violation, but merely prioritize which input channel of data is to be displayed when there is an overlap, i.e., add priority tag bits to each pixel intensity value. The added tags are not equivalent to mask pixel data which at best would correspond to a separate "channel" as opposed to being included in every pixel value of each data channel. The data in Flakne et al is acquired data, not generated by a controller, i.e., internally generated, as recited in claim 1. Flakne et al merely adds the tag data to the data for each channel according to a determined channel priority, i.e., is not separate mask pixel data. Thus Applicants reiterate that Flakne et al in view of any other cited reference does not teach or suggest to one of ordinary

skill in the art the invention as recited in claim 1, and claim 1 and corresponding claim 15, together with claims 2-7 and 16-18 dependent therefrom, are deemed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks allowance of claims 1-7 and 15-18 is urged, and such action and the issuance of this case with claims 1-18 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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